UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/132
S/1998/448
1 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 72 and 80 of the preliminary list*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the attached statement issued on 28 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in reaction to the nuclear testing conducted by Pakistan on 28 May 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 72 and 80 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
issued at Kiev on 28 May 1998

It is the second time during the current month that the hopes of mankind for the non-nuclear world have been seriously challenged. Despite numerous appeals from the world community to refrain from taking steps in response to India's nuclear explosions, Pakistan has conducted its own nuclear tests. Therefore, the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been violated, and a dangerous basis for further proliferation of nuclear weapons on the globe has been created.

As was the case with India, Ukraine condemns this step of Pakistan and calls upon both countries to observe restraint and responsibility in their bilateral relations that will meet the interests of preserving peace and stability in South Asia and in the whole world.

The actions of the two countries have also demonstrated the inefficiency of the existing non-proliferation control mechanisms and the pressing need for their urgent and cardinal improvement. In view of the emergency situation that exists in the South Asia region, Ukraine deems it necessary to consider, as a matter of urgency, the issue of convening a meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

GSUNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/449
1 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit to you, and through you to the members of the Security Council, the text of letters exchanged by the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations extending, in the light of Security Council resolution 1153 (1998) of 20 February 1998, the Memorandum of Understanding of 20 May 1996 concerning the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995 for a period of 180 days, effective 30 May 1998.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

98-15173 (E) 010698

/...

Letter dated 30 May 1998 from the Legal Counsel addressed to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1153 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 20 February 1998, by which the Council decided that the relevant provisions of resolution 986 (1995) would remain in force for a new period of 180 days beginning at 0001 hours, Eastern Standard Time, on the day after the President of the Council has informed the members of the Council that he has received the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 5 of resolution 1153 (1998) regarding the approval of an enhanced distribution plan submitted by the Government of Iraq. The President of the Council informed its members about the receipt of that report on 29 May 1998. I should also like to refer to an exchange of letters between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations dated 6 December 1997 extending, in the light of Security Council resolution 1143 (1997) of 4 December 1997, the Memorandum of Understanding of 20 May 1996 between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Government of Iraq on the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) for a period of 180 days, effective 5 December 1997.

In view of the foregoing, I have the honour to propose that the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding of 20 May 1996 be extended for an additional period of 180 days, effective 30 May 1998, provided that the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding that are applicable to the distribution plans approved pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions shall be applicable to the enhanced distribution plan.

It is also understood that the previously approved distribution plans shall continue to apply for goods purchased with oil revenues generated under the respective Security Council resolutions.

If your Government agrees to this proposal, I suggest that the present letter, and your reply thereto, shall constitute an agreement between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Government of Iraq.

(Signed) Hans CORELL
Under-Secretary-General
for Legal Affairs
The Legal Counsel

Letter dated 30 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Legal Counsel

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Iraq agrees to the proposal contained in your letter of 30 May 1998 for the extension of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding of 20 May 1996 for an additional period of 180 days, effective 30 May 1998.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/929
S/1998/450
1 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 64
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 1 June 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates concerning the underground nuclear tests recently conducted out by India and Pakistan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yacub Yousif AL-HOSANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-15159 (E) 030698 030698

ANNEX

Official statement issued on 30 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates concerning the the nuclear tests recently conducted by India and Pakistan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the following statement:

The United Arab Emirates, genuinely believing in peace and desirous that a state of security and stability should prevail in the Middle East and South Asia, does not consider that the nuclear explosions recently conducted by India and Pakistan serve the cause of security and stability. On the contrary, they have increased tension in South Asia and have in no way contributed to the resolution of existing problems.

At the same time, the United Arab Emirates considers that the double standard applied by the international community to Israel in exempting its nuclear installations from international inspection and the safeguards system has encouraged the nuclear arms race. The United Arab Emirates therefore urges that all nuclear weapons be completely and absolutely banned, and that the Middle East become a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

The United Arab Emirates appreciates the view of the Pakistani Government that the nuclear tests that were carried out may be considered a legitimate right, and were intended to maintain security and defend that country's interests and territorial integrity. Nevertheless, in view of the historical ties of friendship that link the United Arab Emirates to both India and Pakistan, it calls upon each of those countries to exercise self-control and resume discussions with a view to reducing the level of tension, promoting security and stability in the region and bringing development and well-being to their peoples.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/451
1 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 30 May 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the violations of Iraq's airspace committed by the United States U-2 spy plane during April 1998 on the pretext of carrying out an aerial survey for the Special Commission and urges that Iraqi equipment should be used in the work of the Special Commission instead of foreign equipment.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 30 May 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

We should like to refer to our letters addressed to you, the most recent of which was that of 28 April 1998, concerning the violation of Iraq's airspace by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of carrying out an aerial survey for the Special Commission. We should like to inform you that during the month of April 1998 this aircraft committed four fresh violations of Iraq's airspace during which it overflew wide areas of the country for a total of 17 hours and 11 minutes. On each occasion, the aircraft took off from its base in Saudi territory and returned to the same base after completing its mission. The particulars of these violations are presented hereunder.

Date	Day	From	To	Duration
2 April 1998	Thursday	1000	1428	4 h 28 m
7 April 1998	Tuesday	1027	1420	3 h 53 m
15 April 1998	Wednesday	1230	1650	4 h 20 m
21 April 1998	Tuesday	1230	1700	4 h 30 m

These four incidents have raised the number of violations committed by this aircraft to 408. In condemning and deprecating these unwarranted violations of our airspace, we reaffirm the position that Iraq has constantly maintained, namely that this aircraft is being used for purposes other than those of the Special Commission and that its activities are prejudicial to the sovereignty and security of Iraq. We also reaffirm Iraq's standing demand that Iraqi equipment must be used in the work of the Special Commission instead of foreign equipment in order to exclude any possibility of its being used for other purposes that are prejudicial to Iraq's sovereignty and security. On this basis, the United Nations must reconsider the question of using this spy plane, given that its use is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as they relate to respect for the equality and sovereignty of all Member States. Iraq reserves its right to seek compensation for the material and other damage caused by these violations.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/452
1 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 27 May 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, setting forth Iraq's position regarding the five-year work programme proposed by the secretariat of the United Nations Compensation Commission.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15186 (E) 020698 020698

/...

Annex

Letter dated 27 May 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 2 March 1998 from the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission in reply to our letter concerning the work programme prepared by the secretariat of the Commission (S/AC.26/1997/WP.1), we reiterate the position we set forth in our letter dated 13 January 1998 (S/1998/49), and would like to clarify some of the points made in the above-mentioned letter from the President of the Governing Council.

1. The mechanism requested, which the Commission secretariat refers to as an administrative tool, is in fact far from being that, and deals with the very essence of the technical work. The programme is not, as the secretariat claims, purely and simply an organizational and administrative process intended to settle claims over five years, since it aims to institute new proceedings with regard to the relationship between the secretariat and the panels of Commissioners, the claimants, and the legal experts.

2. We stress that the matters referred to in the aforementioned letter from the President of the Governing Council of the Commission which concern the work of the secretariat as set forth in the Provisional Rules for Claims Procedure (the Rules) (S/AC.26/1992/10) relate to the administrative obligations of the secretariat towards the Governing Council and the panels of Commissioners. These are very clearly specified in article 14 of the Rules. Furthermore, articles 15-17 concern the procedures to be followed with regard to claims not meeting the formal requirements, reports and views on claims and the categorization of claims. Articles 32 and 34 concern submission of claims to panels and assistance by the Executive Secretary, and also deal with formal procedures. Articles 37-41 cover the relationship of the secretariat with the panels of Commissioners and the Governing Council.

We consider that the matters covered in the Rules do not confer on the secretariat the right to consider the subject-matter of claims. Its role is restricted to the administrative preparation of claims and submitting those claims to the appropriate panel of Commissioners.

We therefore reiterate that the work programme is clearly intended to give the secretariat powers that are unrelated to its work and assign to it duties for which it is not responsible under the Rules. The provisions of paragraph 5 of the introduction to the work programme clearly state that the secretariat will report on claims submitted as required by article 16, implement the methodologies established by the panels to deal with groups of claims and inform the panels of the results of that implementation.

Paragraph 6 of the same programme states that, in order to minimize the need for the panels to request additional information from either the claimants or the Government of Iraq, the secretariat will prepare the claims for

submission to panels of Commissioners. This will free the panels to focus their efforts during the review period allotted by the Rules upon substantive issues and decisions.

Paragraph 7 provides that external valuation and other experts will assist the panels with the valuation of losses, and may also assist the secretariat in preparing claims for submission to panels.

Part B, paragraph 9, states that various other operating procedures will require elaboration. They include procedures concerning the relationship between the secretariat and the panels of Commissioners, the Commission and the claimants, and the Commission and external experts.

Article 12, entitled "Article 14 assessment", provides that the secretariat may at the same time further prepare the claims for submission to panels. This may involve requesting additional information or evidence from various sources, including the claimants. In that effort, the secretariat may seek assistance from valuation and other experts.

It is clear from even a superficial reading of the Rules and the new work programme that the programme is intended to institute new procedures concerning the relationship between the secretariat and the panels of Commissioners, the Commission and the claimants, and the Commission and external experts. The programme is therefore transforming the secretariat's purely formal operational duties into objective legal work. To that end, it wishes to revise the Rules in order to give the secretariat wider powers to examine claims and carry out an objective valuation thereof, encroaching on the jurisdiction and duties of the panels of Commissioners. This is not permitted by the Rules. The scope of articles 37-41 does not exceed the formal administrative preparation of the work submitted by the panels to the Governing Council.

The President's letter stated that under the Rules, the panels of Commissioners are responsible for settling claims and estimating the volume of assistance to be provided by the secretariat. Similarly, the amount of assistance provided as needed by external consultants should correspond to requests from the panels of Commissioners. These will vary according to the volume and complexity of claims. The panels of Commissioners have the authority to decide which of the valuation methodologies proposed by the external experts should be used with regard to claims which the panels consider should be paid. This being the case, what need is there for a new programme, since the Rules meet requirements? Whereas article 14 of the Rules restricts the duties of the secretariat to making a preliminary assessment of the claims in order to determine whether they meet the formal requirements, article 12 of the work programme provides that the secretariat may at the same time further prepare the claims for submission to panels. This may involve requesting additional information or evidence from various sources, including the claimants. In that effort, the secretariat may seek assistance from valuation and other experts. This means that the secretariat wishes to be able to request additional information or evidence from various sources, whereas that is the responsibility of the panels of Commissioners. The Rules keep reiterating that a valuation of the claims in cooperation with valuation and other experts is one of the basic,

objective duties of the panels of Commissioners and is not a formal or administrative procedure.

3. With respect to the size of the contribution made by Iraq in cases involving unusually complex claims, Iraq has on several occasions already made clear its cautious position regarding the claims-settlement mechanism, and has repeatedly stressed that this mechanism contravenes the rules established by international law, cooperation between States, the principles of public law and the concepts of justice and equity on which those rules are based. We should like to refer yet again to the detailed clarifications submitted by Iraq to one of the panels of Commissioners in August 1996 while the case of the Kuwait Oil Corporation was under consideration. Iraq also made its position clear to the Governing Council in November 1996. The Security Council was informed of these matters in document S/1996/893. The truth of the matter is that the Government of Iraq has no role, however small, which allows it to respond to the allegations contained in claims, or to be present at hearings. It is unable to give its legal and objective opinion on claims, even when those are exaggerated. For example, whereas the Government of Iraq has replied to the reports, numbering 22 to date, prepared by the Executive Secretary and has had them reviewed by legal experts before replying to them individually in a legal and scientific manner, in accordance with the precepts of international law, we have seen no reference made to our replies in those reports. Furthermore, we have received no acknowledgement in this regard from the Compensation Commission. This gives the impression that the Commission is determined to disregard the role of Iraq and to allow it no effective participation. The Commission takes decisions on everything without involving Iraq. It is the Commission that decides which claims should be settled, who is authorized to submit a claim, what should be considered direct losses, and what constitutes sufficient proof. The Commission decides how to evaluate different types of damage and what sums should be paid in compensation. These measures create a legal screen which conceals the systematic subjugation of the Iraqi people. There are no reasonable grounds for this collective punishment of the Iraqi people. The system followed by the Compensation Commission constitutes a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States and cannot be justified as being intended to establish joint liability under international law.

In once again bringing this matter to your attention pursuant to your responsibilities under the Charter, the Government of Iraq considers that it would be a serious matter if such a programme was adopted. It would severely damage the interests of Iraq, exceeding as it does the mandate of the secretariat and even of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission. Iraq requests the review of all incorrect practices that contravene the principles of international law, custom and international precedents on matters of compensation. It further requests that the Compensation Commission verify and scrutinize the accuracy of claims in a manner that completely accords with international law and the rules of justice and equity. If this is not done, the compensation process will become simply an organized operation to strip the Iraqi people of their property, which they desperately need in order

to rebuild their society and economy, which have been largely destroyed as a result of the unjust economic sanctions imposed upon them.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/453
1 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 30 May 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, in which the Minister refers to the continuing violations of Iraq's airspace being committed by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of carrying out an aerial survey for the Special Commission and calls for the use of Iraqi equipment instead of foreign equipment in the Special Commission's work.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 30 May 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

We refer to our letter dated 5 April 1998 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/305, annex) concerning the violation of Iraq's airspace by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of carrying out an aerial survey for the Special Commission.

We should like to inform you that this aircraft, which is based in Saudi Arabian territory, has continued its incursions into Iraq's airspace in violation of the country's sovereignty and security. As of the end of April 1998, this aircraft had carried out 408 overflights for a total flight time of 1,791 hours and 2 minutes since its first overflight in August 1991.

The facts that have come to light since this aircraft was first brought into use, which are set forth in our aforementioned letter, and the ill repute the aircraft has acquired from its past espionage activities in various parts of the world make it incumbent upon the United Nations to re-examine the question of continuing to use an aircraft that is being employed by the United States of America in a coercive manner to violate Iraq's airspace and to spy on Iraq for purposes other than those of the Special Commission. Such policies are totally incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as they relate to respect for the sovereignty of all Member States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

In condemning and deprecating these unwarranted violations of our airspace, we take this opportunity to reaffirm the request that we have constantly reiterated in the 131 letters on this subject we have thus far addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, namely that Iraqi equipment should be used instead of foreign equipment in the work of the Special Commission in order to exclude any possibility of such aircraft being used for purposes prejudicial to Iraq's sovereignty and security.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/454
1 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1142 (1997)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1142 (1997) of 4 December 1997, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) for the final period until 31 August 1998. The Council also requested that I report to it by 1 June 1998 on the modalities of the termination of UNPREDEP, including practical steps for the complete withdrawal of the military component immediately thereafter, and submit recommendations on the type of international presence that would be most appropriate for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia after 31 August 1998. The present report addresses the Council's requests and covers developments in the mission area since my last report, dated 20 November 1997 (S/1997/911).

II. COMPOSITION, STRENGTH AND MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE

2. During the period under review, the mandate of UNPREDEP has remained unchanged. The mission continues to be headed by my Special Representative, Mr. Henryk J. Sokalski. The military component is headed by the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Bent Sohnemann (Denmark).

3. In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1110 (1997) of 28 May 1997, the phased reduction of the UNPREDEP military component by 300 all ranks was completed by 30 November 1997, bringing its strength to 750 troops. At the same time, the total number of observation posts was reduced from 19 to 8, all of which are situated at strategic locations along the border with Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

4. The military component consists of two mechanized infantry battalions: a Nordic composite battalion and a United States Army task force, each with a strength of 350 personnel, supported by a 50-strong heavy engineering platoon from Indonesia. The United States battalion consists of two line companies and a headquarters company. One line company performs border area duties from four

permanent observation posts and a forward company base camp, while the other company performs reserve and quick reaction force duties. The Nordic battalion also consists of one headquarters company and two line companies. It staffs four observation posts, a permanently manned satellite observation post, a patrol base in Ohrid and two company command posts. In addition, there are 35 military observers and 26 civilian police monitors. The authorized strength of the civilian component, including the local staff, is 203. The international civilian and military personnel are drawn from 48 countries.

5. Along with community and border patrols carried out regularly by the civilian police and military observers, UNPREDEP military personnel have conducted some 400 patrols a week during the reporting period. In order to fulfil the mandated tasks along the country's western border with its reduced troop strength, the military component has increased its patrolling flexibility and made more frequent resort to temporary observation posts. In response to the crisis in Kosovo, UNPREDEP has increased its patrols along the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, using both ground and air assets. It has also established temporary observation posts for 24-hour monitoring and reporting on activities at the borders throughout its area of operation. Patrolling by boat has also commenced at Ohrid and Prespa Lakes. Such intensive monitoring, however, cannot be sustained over a long period of time with the current troop strength.

6. The civilian component of UNPREDEP has continued to play an important role in the implementation of the mandate of good offices of my Special Representative, especially by conducting an active dialogue with the authorities and all other major political forces in the country. It has monitored developments in the Republic, including possible areas of conflict and the status of application of international standards on human rights. It has offered assistance in strengthening cross-party dialogue, encouraging political and inter-ethnic communication with a view to easing potential tensions and promoting understanding among the various segments of the population. It has also provided assistance in training law enforcement officials. UNPREDEP has continued its close cooperation with the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The mission is also cooperating with the recently established European Commission Monitoring Mission in the country.

7. Support by several Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has enabled UNPREDEP to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to advance its good offices role and to reach out to the social sector through a number of projects.

III. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES

8. During the reporting period, a growing number of organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system have pursued a range of different activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As from 1 June 1998, an office of the United Nations Development Programme, which will further

enhance inter-agency coordination in various developmental projects in the Republic, will be opened in Skopje.

9. Pursuant to my report to the Council of 20 November 1997 (S/1997/911), my Special Representative convened in Skopje, from 10 to 12 March 1998, a consultative meeting of the entities of the United Nations system on their activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Twenty-two entities of the system participated in the meeting. Sixteen government ministries and other institutions made presentations on their cooperation with concerned United Nations agencies and programmes.

10. The consultative meeting agreed on a programme of action (see annex I) for a consolidated approach to developmental issues in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

IV. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

11. Since my previous report (S/1997/911), there has been growing concern over the developments in Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) and their potential impact upon peace and stability in the region, notably in the countries bordering that province. Issues relating to the situation in Kosovo were addressed in the first report I submitted to the Council pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998 on 30 April 1998 (S/1998/361).

12. The bilateral relations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with its neighbours have, during the reporting period, generally remained at the level described in my previous reports. However, following the signing of a number of agreements on mutual cooperation and the exchange of several official visits between authorities of the host Government and Albania, a better understanding and better cooperation have developed in the two countries' mutual relations. The assurances given by Prime Minister Fatos Nano that Albania will not support policies of radicalism and conflict constitute an important contribution in that regard.

13. Direct collaborative ventures with Greece have been steadily advancing. Relations with Bulgaria have continued to be affected by the still unresolved dispute over the language issue. The first round-table meeting of intellectuals of the two countries, initiated by the non-governmental community and held in April, has revealed a genuine potential for dialogue and understanding in the search for mutually acceptable solutions.

14. The question of the demarcation of the border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains unresolved. The protracted discussions of the Joint Border Commission have led to intensified patrolling by both parties in some of the disputed areas of the border. This has placed an additional burden upon United Nations peacekeepers, who have established a presence in those areas to prevent incidents. Following an eight-month suspension of work, the Commission resumed its deliberations last month. However, its two subsequent meetings do not seem to have produced progress in the long-delayed resolution of the problem. In that regard, there are indications that the issue of the demarcation of the border has become

hostage to extraneous political considerations and that the parties might have difficulties in finding a mutually agreeable solution.

15. On the domestic political scene, developments have followed an uneven course. Following the earlier consensus reached on the country's major foreign policy issues, the inter-party dialogue held under the auspices of the President of the Republic has continued with a third political summit devoted to inter-ethnic relations, held on 2 and 3 April. Although participants at the summit failed to agree on a joint statement, the dialogue was open and conducted in a spirit of tolerance. At the same time, the Constitutional Court of the Republic concluded that the statutes of the two ethnic Albanian parties (the Party for Democratic Prosperity of Albanians and the National Democratic Party) seeking a merger into the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA) were not contrary to the Constitution. Soon thereafter, the main political youth organizations of the country, including ethnic ones, signed a joint declaration on tolerance. These positive developments are conducive to improved inter-ethnic relations in the country.

16. The process of internal reforms has been enhanced by the adoption of the electoral law, which was finalized in consultation with major political parties, the Council of Europe and OSCE. At the request of the Government, the United Nations provided an expert to assist the electoral authorities to review the final draft of the electoral law. The forthcoming national elections, to be held in late 1998, will constitute an important test for the country's young democracy and for its progress towards building a civil society.

17. On the other hand, there has been criticism of the human rights situation in the country from some reputable international non-governmental organizations. The country's opposition parties and independent media have also objected to the existing procedures for the distribution of radio and television frequencies and to the allocation of funds to support the printed media. In addition, the overall climate of inter-ethnic relations has been negatively affected by the imprisonment of the ethnic Albanian Mayor of Gostivar, Mr. Rufi Osmani (see my earlier reports S/1997/631, para. 16, and S/1997/911, para. 20). On appeal, Mr. Osmani's sentence was recently reduced from 13 years and 8 months to 7 years. Although all means of appeal had not yet been fully exhausted, Mr. Osmani was called to serve his sentence. His subsequent imprisonment sparked a series of protest marches launched by the still unregistered ethnic Albanian DPA, as well as the withdrawal or suspension of its mayors, municipal councillors and members of Parliament from the relevant State structures, thus adding to the complexity of inter-ethnic relations in the country. In contrast to earlier practice, a request by United Nations civilian police monitors to visit Mr. Osmani in prison has been denied by the authorities.

18. The Parliamentary Commission investigating the 9 July 1997 police action in Gostivar submitted its report in March 1998. The report concluded, inter alia, that there had been some exceeding of authority on the part of certain individuals and groups and that the excess of use of authority by certain police representatives in the course of detention of citizens during and after their action was indisputable. On the basis of the report, the National Assembly obligated the Government to report, by 31 May 1998, on action taken to improve the ethnic structure of the police force, to enhance human rights training of

the police and to effect disciplinary measures against police officers who had overstepped their authority in connection with the Gostivar events.

V. OBSERVATIONS

19. Peace and stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to depend largely on developments in other parts of the region. Recent developments in Kosovo have highlighted the danger of renewed violence in the area and the serious repercussions such violence can have upon the external and internal security of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Elsewhere in the region, the slow progress in implementing some civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in initiating a comprehensive regional programme for the return of refugees and displaced persons remain areas for concern that could affect regional peace and security.

20. Moreover, the continuing uncertainties in the region may exacerbate domestic problems within the host country, particularly those relating to inter-ethnic relations. At present, a truly consistent trend towards an improvement in inter-ethnic tensions in a spirit of mutual understanding appears to be lacking. Over the past few years, a number of international entities, notably those of the United Nations system, OSCE, European governmental structures and Governments of Member States, on a bilateral basis, have been actively engaged in strengthening pluralism and democratic reforms in the country. Although progress has been made in that direction, that progress may still be reversed under the pressure of external developments.

21. The presence of UNPREDEP presence has so far contributed successfully to preventing the spillover of conflicts elsewhere in the region to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It continues to have a stabilizing effect and to contribute significantly to generating dialogue among the various political forces and ethnic communities in the country. During the past few months, the confidence inspired by the presence of UNPREDEP has been particularly important in diffusing the tensions that could have arisen as a result of the crisis in Kosovo.

22. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in a letter addressed to me on 15 May 1998 (S/1998/401), referred to the changed circumstances in the region which, in his view, mitigate against any weakening of the international presence in the country. He expressed his Government's concern over the negative developments north of the border, especially in Kosovo, the yet unmarked border between the Republic and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the tensions along the border between Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Minister further expressed concern that, under those circumstances, the peace and stability of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia could be endangered and that a security gap would arise in the region should the military component of UNPREDEP be withdrawn after 31 August. Consequently, the Minister recommended an extension of UNPREDEP for an additional period of six months, with the same mandate, structure and troop composition.

23. At the time of the writing of the present report, discussions were under way within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and elsewhere concerning the possible need for an expanded international military presence in the region as a consequence of the current situation in Kosovo. Furthermore, consultations are continuing with a view to adopting a decision on the establishment of a comprehensive regime to monitor the implementation of the prohibitions imposed by Security Council resolution 1160 (1998). In both cases, the outcome may well have implications for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and therefore also on UNPREDEP. In the meantime, it would seem premature to proceed with a decision to withdraw UNPREDEP after 31 August 1998. Nor do I possess the requisite information, at this juncture, to submit recommendations on the type of international presence that would be most appropriate for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia after 31 August.

24. Against this background and bearing in mind also the position of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, one possible option that the Security Council may wish to consider would be to extend UNPREDEP with its mandate unchanged for a further period of six months until 28 February 1999, it being understood that the Council would review its decision should the ongoing discussions at the international level, referred to in the previous paragraph, result in decisions that would affect the role and responsibilities of UNPREDEP.

25. Meanwhile, the fulfilment of the Force's mandated tasks along the borders with Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have already stretched the reduced strength of the operation to the limit (see para. 3 above). As a result, following the deterioration of the situation in Kosovo, UNPREDEP has not been able to maintain an extensive presence along that stretch of the border for a sustained period of time without jeopardizing the implementation of its other tasks. Thus, within its current strength, any further escalation of the crisis in Kosovo could have negative operational consequences for the Force and undermine its impressive record of achievements to date. Consequently, it would be my intention to submit, by 15 July, should the Security Council so wish, specific proposals on a possible strengthening of the Force's overall capacity, taking into consideration the situation in the region and the relevant Security Council resolutions, including 795 (1992) of 11 December 1992 and 1160 (1998).

26. Finally, I should like to thank my Special Representative, Mr. Sokalski, as well as the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Sohnemann, and all the military and civilian personnel under their command, for their dedication and perseverance in carrying out the tasks entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Annex I

Findings and conclusions of the consultative meeting of the entities of the United Nations system on their activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

I. FINDINGS

1. In line with the evolving philosophy of preventive diplomacy and peace-building, as expressed in several pronouncements of the Secretary-General and the Security Council, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) has successfully combined troop deployment, political action and good offices with the promotion of human development.

2. The Government's pronouncements at the consultative meeting have shown that it has charted a course that leads to vigorous actions to address the pressing problems of a difficult transition and has laid the foundation for sustained economic recovery. During the past six years, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has made substantial strides in a multiple transition to independent statehood, a free market economy, a pluralist democracy and an état de droit. Considerable progress has been accomplished in spite of many difficulties encountered in a turbulent environment.

3. The challenges confronting the country in the short run include a substantial reduction of productive capacity and growth in unemployment and its attendant social ills, often exacerbated by the country's exposed geographic position. The problems of drug trafficking, corruption and criminality are symptoms of deeper underlying social and economic problems that a coherent strategy of the Government can effectively address, supported by consistent efforts on the part of the international community.

4. The deliberations of the consultative meeting have pointed to a consensus on the main components of a strategy, contributing to the preservation and further consolidation of peace, stability and sustainable development, namely:

(a) Regional and international cooperation based on expanded trade, economic, political and cultural relations, including the exchange of experience on issues of transition;

(b) Confidence-building measures, including macroeconomic stability, essential to the development of a propitious climate for business initiatives and for attracting foreign and domestic investment into agriculture, industry and services sectors, and thereby promoting employment;

(c) Measures to establish an enabling legislative framework for private sector development;

(d) Structural reforms and modernization required to prepare the ground for a competitive export-oriented economy;

(e) Administrative reforms to strengthen public administration, corporate governance and transparency and professionalism in public sector management, which complement the measures in (b), (c) and (d) above, including the promotion of human resources development and training;

(f) Consolidation of an état de droit based on the rule of law, good governance, social dialogue, an active civil society and respect for human rights, underpinning the Office of the Ombudsman;

(g) Upgrading of physical infrastructure required for the development of industry, including that of civil aviation, roads and railroads and communication networks, tourism and trade;

(h) Protection of the environment and health as well as the country's diversified cultural heritage;

(i) Promotion and facilitation of social service reform, notably education, social protection and security and health, consistent with the country's goal of integration into the European Union.

The participants emphasized that the United Nations system, in tandem with its partners in the international community, can facilitate the Government's efforts to overcome pressing economic and social problems and lay the foundations for sustainable development.

5. The mission of UNPREDEP has included an important humanitarian and human development dimension which has complemented the military and political functions and served to build confidence between the host country and the United Nations. It has also proved to be catalytic in paving the road for initiatives that several United Nations agencies and other regional organizations have undertaken with considerable success.

6. Both on the side of the Government and among the agencies represented at the meeting, there was strong support for the concept of a common "United Nations house", including a resource centre of the entire United Nations system in Skopje. Specifically, the host Government expressed its firm commitment to the implementation of this idea as a means of facilitating the pursuit of a joint inter-agency effort and sustainable course of action.

II. CONCLUSIONS

7. The participants welcomed the forthcoming establishment of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office to continue and expand the social action programme of UNPREDEP, which thus far has comprised mainly micro-development projects. In voicing strong support for an expanded role of the United Nations system, the participants stressed certain important factors that optimize delivery and secure long-term effectiveness. Foremost among these is the need for closer coordination and clear focus of United Nations activities in economic and social development.

8. The meeting participants were informed of the recommendations contained in the recently published national development strategy. They noted that the strategy provided a useful framework for integrating the various operational activities sponsored and undertaken by the United Nations and the wider international community in partnership with the Government.

9. The participants recognized that the agencies of the United Nations system in the field needed to forge closer operational linkages in the spirit of "one unified system operating under one flag". Every opportunity must be taken to build greater synergies among the programmes of the agencies. Accordingly, the participants called for the establishment of a framework for cooperation based on national priorities, agency complementarities and shared goals.

10. In the above context, the participants believed that the establishment of a common "United Nations house", including a resource centre of the whole United Nations system in Skopje, would enhance the value, efficiency and effectiveness of their respective activities in support of national development.

11. To implement the strategy outlined in paragraph 4 above, United Nations agencies, supported by UNDP, as appropriate, should pay particular attention to the following:

(a) Assisting the Government in its efforts to mobilize resources in support of strategic national goals;

(b) Emphasizing all cross-cutting issues contained in the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations global conferences of the past two decades;

(c) Helping to ensure the compatibility of national legislation with international standards and strengthening the capacity of national structures for their implementation;

(d) Establishing the common "United Nations house".

12. In conclusion, the participants thanked UNPREDEP for its timely initiative in organizing the consultative meeting and expressed the hope that the meeting would assist and pave the way for a continued presence of the United Nations system, in line with the expressed wishes of the host Government. They believed that such presence was necessary and would prove conducive to the consolidation of peace in the region and the successful completion of the process of transition, which would enable the country to meet the major challenges of globalization and integration into the wider European and world communities.

Annex II

Composition and strength of the military and civilian police elements of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force as at 22 May 1998

	Military			
Nationality	Operational	Headquarters	Military observers	Civilian police
Argentina	-	-	1	-
Bangladesh	-	-	2	-
Belgium	-	-	1	-
Brazil	-	-	2	-
Canada	-	-	1	-
Czech Republic	-	-	1	-
Denmark	38	9	1	-
Egypt	-	-	1	-
Finland	205	13	1	6
Ghana	-	-	1	-
Indonesia	50	1	2	-
Ireland	-	-	2	-
Jordan	-	-	2	2
Kenya	-	-	2	-
Nepal	-	-	1	-
New Zealand	-	-	1	-
Nigeria	-	-	1	4
Norway	38	6	2	-
Pakistan	-	-	2	-
Poland	-	-	2	-
Portugal	-	-	1	-
Russian Federation	-	-	2	2
Sweden	32	8	1	-
Switzerland	-	-	1	4
Turkey	-	-	-	4
Ukraine	-	-	1	4
United States of America	339	11	-	-
Total	702	48	35	26

Map No. 4017 Rev. 2 UNITED NATIONS
June 1995

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/454/Corr.1
9 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1142 (1997)

Corrigendum

Replace the map on the last page with the attached map.

98-16283 (E) 100698

Map No. 4017 Rev. 2 UNITED NATIONS
June 1998

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/455
2 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 May 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, giving details of the fresh incursion into the territory of the Republic of Iraq carried out by the Turkish armed forces and calling on the United Nations to meet its responsibilities under the Charter and to halt the intimidation and aggression to which Iraq is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

98-15335 (E) 030698 030698

/...

Annex

Letter dated 31 May 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to call your attention to the fact that on 22 May 1998 the Turkish armed forces, supported by the air force, carried out a fresh incursion into the territory of the Republic of Iraq. The particulars are set forth hereunder.

1. On 22 May 1998 the Turkish armed forces carried out a fresh incursion into northern Iraq. Turkish forces estimated to number several thousand, closely supported by the Turkish air force, advanced deep inside Iraqi territory at a number of points along the two countries' common border.

2. Beginning at 1105 hours on 25 May 1998 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Amadiyah and Zakho areas.

3. On 26 May 1998 a spokesman for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement confirming the said incursion and reiterating the same pretexts as given for each previous incursion, namely that it had the aim of pursuing groups that pose a threat to Turkish national security.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq condemns the ongoing encroachments and violations of the Turkish armed forces in the strongest terms, and it rejects outright the arguments that Turkey has been using to justify its repeated incursions into our territory.

The claim of being in pursuit of elements that are in revolt against the Turkish Government in order to halt their activities does not permit the Turkish armed forces to invade and violate Iraq's territory. Turkey has persistently fabricated flimsy pretexts and excuses for these acts of aggression. At the same time, it is the policy pursued by the Government of Turkey in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of maintaining an unlawful no-flight zone that is creating an anomalous situation in northern Iraq.

The Turkish Government's repeated acts of aggression constitute a grave breach of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a violation of the principles governing relations of good-neighbourliness and of the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement.

As it calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces forthwith from Iraqi territory and to desist from any repetition of these constant belligerent actions, Iraq holds Turkey fully responsible, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives. The Government of Iraq also reserves its legitimate right under international law to determine an appropriate response to this

brutal military aggression and to seek compensation for the damage caused by Turkey's repeated encroachments and its violations of Iraqi territory as well as for the human suffering sustained by Iraqi citizens owing to these actions.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its call to the Government of the Republic of Turkey to abandon its dangerous policy, which clearly contributes to perpetuating the anomalous situation in northern Iraq in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the purpose of implementing a hazardous scheme for interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to Turkey to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the Security Council will fulfil the responsibilities assigned to it by the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and that it will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/456
2 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 May 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, giving details of the fresh incursion into the territory of the Republic of Iraq carried out by the Turkish armed forces and calling on the United Nations to meet its responsibilities under the Charter and to halt the intimidation and aggression to which Iraq is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 31 May 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 8 February 1998 addressed to you (S/1998/126, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that on 22 May 1998 the Turkish armed forces, supported by the air force, carried out a fresh incursion into the territory of the Republic of Iraq. The particulars are set forth hereunder.

1. On 22 May 1998 the Turkish armed forces carried out a fresh incursion into northern Iraq. Turkish forces estimated to number several thousand, closely supported by the Turkish air force, advanced deep inside Iraqi territory at a number of points along the two countries' common border.

2. Beginning at 1105 hours on 25 May 1998 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Amadiyah and Zakho areas.

3. On 26 May 1998 a spokesman for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement confirming the said incursion and reiterating the same pretexts as given for each previous incursion, namely that it had the aim of pursuing groups that pose a threat to Turkish national security.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq condemns the ongoing encroachments and violations of the Turkish armed forces in the strongest terms, and it rejects outright the arguments that Turkey has been using to justify its repeated incursions into our territory.

The claim of being in pursuit of elements that are in revolt against the Turkish Government in order to halt their activities does not permit the Turkish armed forces to invade and violate Iraq's territory. Turkey has persistently fabricated flimsy pretexts and excuses for these acts of aggression. At the same time, it is the policy pursued by the Government of Turkey in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of maintaining an unlawful no-flight zone that is creating an anomalous situation in northern Iraq.

The Turkish Government's repeated acts of aggression constitute a grave breach of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a violation of the principles governing relations of good-neighbourliness and of the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement.

As it calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces forthwith from Iraqi territory and to desist from any repetition of these constant belligerent actions, Iraq holds Turkey fully responsible, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives. The Government of Iraq also reserves its legitimate

right under international law to determine an appropriate response to this brutal military aggression and to seek compensation for the damage caused by Turkey's repeated encroachments and its violations of Iraqi territory as well as for the human suffering sustained by Iraqi citizens owing to these actions.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its call to the Government of the Republic of Turkey to abandon its dangerous policy, which clearly contributes to perpetuating the anomalous situation in northern Iraq in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the purpose of implementing a hazardous scheme for interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to Turkey to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities under the Charter and will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/457
2 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 2 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 31 May 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

98-15382 (E) 030698 030698

/...

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 16-31 May 1998

1. In the northern region 80 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar and Baibo.

2. In the southern region 669 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah and Abu Sukhayr.

3. Twelve violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1440 hours on 12 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 1134, 1225, 1305, 1616 and 1020 hours on 13 and 14 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 0940, 1620, 1633 and 1645 hours on 15 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 0380, 0840, 1030, 0850 and 1700 hours on 21 and 23 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

8. At 1030 hours on 23 May 1998 the United States frigate Simpson (No. 56) was seen manoeuvring 5 nautical miles south of Mina' al-Bakr.

9. At 1208 hours on 27 May 1998 a formation of two United States aircraft dropped 10 heat flares on Hayy al-Muthanna in Ninawa Governorate.